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Docket No. 2104US

**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Ioana Popa-Burke et al.  
 Application No.: 10/008,348  
 Filed: 08 November 2001  
 For: Sample Preparation System and  
 Associated Apparatuses and Method

**ASSERTION OF SMALL ENTITY STATUS UNDER 37 CFR 1.27**

Icoria, Inc.  
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I hereby assert that in the matter of application number 10/008,348, the above identified business qualifies as a small entity for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Icoria, Inc. is a small business concern, as defined in 13 CFR part 121, the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. Furthermore, Icoria, Inc. has not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and is under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention of the application identified above to any person, concern, or organization which would not qualify for small entity status.



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Dated: December 9, 2004  
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.8(1))**

I hereby certify that this correspondence, is on the date shown below, being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (703) 872-9306.

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December 9, 2004